

SENATE BILL 283

By Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39
and Title 40, relative to criminal law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 17, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

40-17-102.

(a) If a district attorney general is required to disclose to the defendant information including the name, contact information, or statements of a law enforcement informant, then the district attorney general may petition the court for a protective order prohibiting the defendant and the defendant's counsel from publishing the informant's name, contact information, or statements at any time prior to or during the trial. The petition must identify the specific information that will be subject to the prohibition and show good cause for issuing the protective order, which may include that allowing the defendant to publish the information is likely to result in substantial danger to the law enforcement informant.

(b) If, after a hearing on the petition, the court finds there is good cause for prohibiting the publishing of the information, then the court shall issue the protective order expressly limiting the publication of a law enforcement informant's information at any time prior to or during the trial.

(c) This section does not restrict the right of a defendant or defendant's counsel to conduct an investigation or interviews to be used at trial.

(d) A person who knowingly violates a protective order issued pursuant to this section commits a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.